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POLICY ISSUES: COORDINATION AND COOPERATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS

Memoranda of understanding concerning cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other organizations of the United Nations system

Note by the Executive Director

1. In its decision 17/8 of 21 May 1993, the Governing Council, conscious of the need to reduce documentation submitted to it by the Executive Director, requested the Executive Director to discontinue the practice, followed pursuant to Council decision 82 (V) of 25 May 1977, of submitting to the Council detailed information on memoranda of understanding on joint programming between UNEP and other organizations in the United Nations system but to submit a summary list of all such memoranda to future sessions of the Council.

2. In accordance with that request, the Executive Director has the honour to circulate herewith a summary list of the memoranda of understanding concluded between UNEP and other United Nations organizations since the last report on the subject to the Governing Council (UNEP/GC.17/Inf.2).

3. As requested by the Council in paragraph 2 of its decision 17/8, the full text of the memoranda of understanding have been forwarded to Governments and to the Committee of Permanent Representatives for information and record purposes.

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* UNEP/GC.18/1.

Annex

SUMMARY LIST OF MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN UNEP AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Title (date of signature by UNEP)	Subject matter	Financial implications for UNEP	Date distributed to CPR and Governments
Memorandum of Understanding between UNEP and the United Nations Secretariat of a Convention on Desertification and the amendment thereto (18 May 1993 (amended on 7 September 1993 to include new activities))	Outlines principal activities to be carried out by UNEP and the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Committee for a Convention to Combat Desertification in cooperation, i.e. development of case-studies in Africa; preparation of subregional case-studies on combating drought and desertification; and organization of the first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the elaboration of an international convention on desertification (INCD). Activities added by the amendment are organization of a workshop on the relationship between migration and desertification and assistance to NGOs from selected developing countries to participate in the second session of INCD.	$360,000	February 1995
Joint statement by James Gustave Speth, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme, and Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (May 1994)	Proposes increased collaboration between UNDP and UNEP to concentrate on, inter alia, the development of national frameworks for sustainable development; assistance to Governments in the implementation of Rio and post-Rio conventions; and the dissemination of environmental information. One important aspect of the cooperation is the building of working relations between the UNDP country offices and UNEP's regional offices. The ultimate aim is to have joint programmes in support of sustainable development in a wide range of areas.	Level of resources to be detailed in project documents	February 1995

Title (date of signature by UNEP)	Subject matter	Financial implications for UNEP	Date distributed to CPR and Governments
Memorandum of Understanding between the World Health Organization European Centre for Environment and Health and the United Nations Environment Programme Environmental Assessment Programme on the Development of a Joint WHO/UNEP Environment and Health Information Network in Countries of Central and Eastern Europe (20 October 1994)	Aims at long-term objectives including: strengthening of links between information networks at the national and regional levels; establishment of international links between national networks; enabling participating Governments to access data and information from international networks, establishment of a long-term practical working relationship between the WHO and UNEP environment and health information network programmes; and a unified approach for data-collection exchange and validation, which should also facilitate data comparability.	Level of resources for implementation of activities to be detailed in project documents	February 1995
Memorandum of Understanding concerning Establishment of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (31 January 1995)*	Establishes the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals. The areas for coordination are: international assessment of chemical risks; harmonization of classification and labelling of chemicals; information exchange on chemicals and chemical risks; establishment of risk reduction programmes; strengthening of national capabilities and capacities for management of chemicals; prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products; and other areas as agreed by all Participating Organizations.	Level of resources for implementation of activities to be detailed in project documents	February 1995
Memorandum of Understanding on World Bank, UNEP and UNDP Collaboration: Aral Sea Basin Program - Phase I (3 February 1995)	Aims at optimizing the effectiveness of World Bank, UNEP and UNDP assistance to the Aral Sea basin States so that they are able to introduce the essential policies and institutional reforms and develop effective strategies for addressing the Aral Sea crisis. The Phase I Program annexed to the Memorandum consists of seven programme categories, including capacity-building. Donor funding is being sought. A World Bank/UNEP/UNDP Steering Committee will be responsible for overall coordination of activities.	Level of resources for implementation of activities to be detailed in project documents	February 1995

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* The Memorandum is open for signature by UNEP, the International Labour Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. Other intergovernmental organizations may also join upon the unanimous consent of the foregoing organizations that have become parties.